

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4452
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2016
Purchase of Tanker Ships
Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Navy has floated tenders for purchase of tanker ships in the recent past and if so, the details thereof along with the estimated cost of the project;
- (b) whether cracks had developed in the hull of the fleet tanker which had escorted INS Vikramaditya back from Russia and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any probe has been ordered by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR)

(a) The Defence Acquisition Council has accorded Acceptance of Necessity to procure five Fleet Support Ships which, in addition to other roles, will also serve as tankers for the Navy. The tankers will be supplied by M/s Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. The cost will be finalized after completion of negotiations.

(b) to (d): While escorting INS Vikramaditya during the Arctic sea passage from Russia to India in December 2013, Fleet Tanker INS Deepak had developed cracks in the connecting members between the superstructure and side shell plating of the ship. No cracks or damage were, however, observed on the primary structure of the ship. A Board of Inquiry constituted by the Navy in January 2014 concluded that there is a need for strengthening the connecting members between the superstructure and the side shell plating. The necessary repairs have been undertaken.
